

# *The Tribe of ASHER.*

A brief ESSAY  
ON THE  
*Conspicuous Blessings*  
with which  
the PEOPLE of GOD,  
and their OFF-SPRING,  
are known to be the  
Blessed of the LORD.

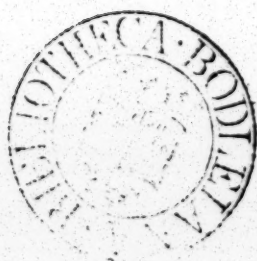
A SERMON Preached on the  
BAPTISM of a GRAND-CHILD.

*Dico Beatam Vitam Consistere in altitudine  
sapientiæ, suavitate Conscientiæ, Virtutis  
sublimitate; Non sine passione esse, sed  
Victorem passionis esse, Beatum est.*

Ambrosi. de Offic.

B O S T O N :

Printed in the Year, 1717.



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## *A Blessed Offspring.*

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Preached on the BAPTISM of a  
GRAND-CHILD. 4.d.VI.m. 1717.

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ISAIAH LXI. 9.

*All that see them, shall acknowledge  
them, That they are the Seed,  
which the Lord has Blessed.*

**A**ND *Blessed* indeed are they  
whom the LORD has  
*Blessed*. None *Blessed* but  
such as they! Now, whose  
portion is this *Blessedness*? It is  
here foretold as the portion of the  
*Israelitish Nation*, after they shall be Re-  
covered

covered out of their *Unbelief*, and their *Dispersion*, in the latter Days. But in the mean time, it is a portion to be claimed by us *Gentiles*, who pay our Homage to that Great KING, against whom that Nation yet persisting in Rebellion procures to itself a Rejection from GOD, and has His *Curse* lying upon it. The *Kingdom of Heaven* suffers a violence from the *Gentiles* who Believe in the only SAVIOUR, that is a *Light to Lighten the Gentiles*, as well as the *Glory of His People Israel*, Yea, before they come to see their *Glory* in Him. Let us be so *Violent*, as to take by Force the Blessedness, which belongs to the Children of God; The Force, and the Faith with which we do it, will be exceedingly pleasing unto our SAVIOUR. The People of GOD are thus brought into the way of *Blessings*; I will make an Everlasting Covenant with them. And then a very Illustrious Quality of the *Blessings* will be this; They shall be Known; or, Acknowledged. And, they that see them shall Acknowledge them, that they are the Seed which  
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## *A Blessed Offspring.*

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*the Lord has blessed.* Which is as much as to say, That their *Blessings* will be very *Conspicuous*; The *Blessings* will be so *Conspicuous*, and so peculiar, and so transcendent, that there shall be much Notice taken of them. Such *Notable Blessings* are to be expected, for them, with whom the Lord *makes an Everlasting Covenant*, and for the *Offspring* of such. *Conspicuous Blessings* are to be expected for such an *Offspring*. The mention of an *Offspring Blessed* of GOD, leads us to a sense of them whose *Offspring* they are. They are the *Offspring* of such as are *Blessed* of GOD, yea, of such as are particularly *Blessed* in their *Offspring*.

Our DOCTRINE will be this.

*VERY Conspicuous are the Blessings, with which a Gracious GOD, will Bless the Children of His People, and of His Covenant.*

We shall have our *Doctrine* retailed, in several PROPOSITIONS.

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I. The

1. The People of GOD are not only a Blessed People ; but also there are very *Conspicuous Blessings* which their GOD bestows upon them. Let these Things be distinctly thought upon.

*First*, It is to be acknowledged, That the People of GOD, must have it said of them, *These are they which the Lord has Blessed* ; Yea, and He will Bless them for evermore. Of them that are the Children of GOD, it must needs be acknowledged, *They are the Seed which the Lord has Blessed*. We have been so taught of GOD, Matth. V. 8. *Blessed are they who are called, The Children of GOD*. Now all the People of GOD are the Children of GOD ; They are His *Israel*. The People, who Know, and Fear, and Serve the True GOD, Behold, *Such manner of Love the Father has bestowed upon them ; They are called, The Children of GOD !* Unto all this People, *Ye are my Sons and my Daughters, saith the Lord Almighty*. They may expect a *Fathers Blessing* from

only are their these n. That said. Lord Bless that needs Seed have V. 8. Chil- ple of They who True Love They Unto nd my mighty. Blessing from

from Him. How *Blessed* are they that have the *Blessing* of such a *Father*! The *People* of *GOD* are they that have made *Choice* of Him for *Their* *God*. And their doing so, is the effect of His having *Chosen* them for *His* *People*. Certainly, They are a *Blessed* *People*, who have an All-sufficient *GOD* for *their* *GOD*: A *GOD* of Infinite Perfections, concern'd for them: A *GOD* Infinite in *Power*, and *Wisdom*, and *Goodness*, engaged for their *Happiness*. Is was the ancient Song among the *People* of *God*; *Psal.* *CXLIV.* *15.* *Happy is that People, whose God is the Lord.* The *People* of *GOD* may forever depend upon that: *Psal.* *LXVII.* *6.* *God, even our own God, shall Bless us.* We do not say, The *People* of *GOD* must be a *Wealthy* *People*: Tho' there will a *Day* come, wherein they shall be so; and they shall *Inherit* all things. But this we do say, The *People* of *GOD*, shall be a *Blessed* *People*. Far greater *Blessings* than what the *Wealth* of this *World* can afford, belong unto them. We do not affirm, The *People* of

of GOD shall see no *Troubles* ! No ; They often say, *My Soul is full of Troubles*. It is foretold, and they feel it fulfilled unto them ; *In the World ye shall have Tribulation*. They most commonly are, *A poor and an afflicted People*. But this is to be affirmed, Their *Troubles* bring *Blessings* with them. They prove the wiser and better for their *Troubles*. They ever say, *'Tis good for me that I have been afflicted*. The Word of GOD every where gives us the *Characters* of the *Blessed*. Our SAVIOUR has particularly given us the *Characters* of such in His Eight *Beatitudes*. Diverse of the *Psalms* in our Psalter have given us the *Characters*. These *Characters* are ever found in all the *People of GOD*. Oh ! Let all the Congregation know this ; Of those who are destitute of these *Characters*, the Great GOD says, *Call them, Lo-ammi, and Lo-ruhamah ; They are not my People ; I will not have mercy on them. It shall be known, That they are not the Blessed of the Lord*. In fine ; All the *People* of

of GOD, have an *High-Priest*, whose Office it is to *Bless* them; whose design it is to Purchase *Blessings* for them, Dispense *Blessings* to them. No *Balaam*, can divert the *Blessings* of GOD from coming upon them.

Yea more than so; Secondly, The *Blessings* to be enjoy'd by the People of GOD, may be so *Conspicuous*, that *All they that see them shall Acknowledge, They are the People which the Lord has Blessed.* And there are sundry *Regards*, wherein the People of GOD will be *Conspicuously Blessed* of Him.

*First*, The People of GOD are *Conspicuously Blessed* in this, that there are *Conspicuous Discoveries* of their being His *People*, upon them. The People of GOD will be *Discovered* by such marks of *Piety* as will show what they are. They will be *Remarkably Blessed* in those things which are the *Discoveries* of them. To render it *Conspicuous*, that any are the People of GOD, is to render it *Conspicuous*, that they  
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are a *Blessed* People. There are certain *Vertues* to be found in the People of GOD, by which it is rendred *Conspicuous*, that they are *His* People ; And those *Vertues* are so many *Blessings*, yea, they are the Best of *Blessings*. Concerning the People of GOD, We read ; Heb. XI. 14. *They declare plainly, what they seek, and what they are. The People of GOD, always Declare plainly, That they count it Good for them to draw near unto GOD. They Declare plainly, That Sin is an Abominable Thing unto them. They Declare plainly, That their SAVIOUR is precious to them, and that they are His Followers.* 'Tis now plainly Declared, That they are a *Blessed* People. For, they who do such Things are a *Blessed* People : Yea, they are *Blessed in their Deed*, vast *Blessings* are in their doing so. The People of GOD, are a *Visible* People. They that *shine as Lights* in the World, will be *seen*. The People of GOD, are *Conspicuous Luminaries* to the Earth. 'Tis true ; many are *Visibly* the People of GOD, who are not

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Really so. But, all they who become Really the People of GOD, will be *Visibly* so. People may be by *Profession* the People of GOD, and yet not be such in *Reality*. But if People are in *Reality* the People of GOD, they will make a *Profession* of their being such. They who value themselves, that they never made a *Profession* of Religion, do but *foam out their own Shame*; do but proclaim and exalt their *Folly*: do but boast that it is *Profanity* rather than *Hypocrisy*, that is to be charged upon them. Without such a *Profession* of Religion, as will render it *Conspicuous*, that we own the *Truths* and *Ways* of our SAVIOUR, we shall be *disown'd* by Him, as those that have been *Asham'd* of Him. The People of GOD, are all of them, His *Witnesses* to the World. The *Testimonies* which they bear for GOD, will render them *Conspicuous* to the World. Our SAVIOUR has required it of His Disciples; Matth. V. 16. *Let your Light so shine before Men, that they may see your Good Works.* Tho' Good Men are not those



those who do *Good Works* that they may be seen, yet they do *Good Works* that will be seen. That *Love of GOD*, which is the *Root of the Righteous* in the Soul, is always a *Fruitful Thing* : There will always be *Fruits* of it. And those *Fruits of Righteousness* cannot but be *Conspicuous*. The People of *GOD* will have such *Tempers*, and will do such *Actions*, as will carry *Evidences* with them ; It shall be *Evident*, That they *Fear GOD*, and *Work Righteousness*. A People that have *Piety Conspicuous* in them, are a *People Conspicuously Blessed of GOD*. *Piety* is a *Thing* full of *Blessings*. They that approve themselves *Good Men*, are *Conspicuously* attended with the *Blessings of Goodness*. What we have hitherto spoken is what is *Always* to be look'd for : 'Tis what belongs to *All the People of GOD*. They All are *Conspicuously Holy* ; To be so is to be *Conspicuously Blessed*.

But Then, *Secondly* ; The People of *GOD* may hope to be *Conspicuously Blessed*, in very *Conspicuous Favours* of  
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His Providence unto them : *Conspicuous Favours*, and *Uncommon Ones* ; and such that all who see them shall acknowledge, that they are *Blessed of the Lord*, who do receive them.

And here ; First ; In *This World*, there are some among the People of GOD, who are more *Conspicuously Favoured* of Him. Among the People of GOD, there are some, who are *Conspicuously Favoured* of Him, in His *Answers of the Prayers*, which they make unto Him. There are some, whose *Prayer availeth much* ; Some who have the *Golden Key* to the *Treasures of Mercy*, under a skilful, powerful, successful management ; Some who have their *Petitions to Heaven* so granted, that all they who see them, acknowledge them to be the *Favourites of Heaven*. It may be said unto them, as in, *Gen. XXXII. 28.* *As a Prince thou hast power with God.* Again ; Among the People of GOD, there are some who are *Conspicuously Favoured* of Him, in various *Articles of Prosperity* with which He Favours them. They are *Blessed* with

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with Riches, Blessed with Honours, Blessed in their Families, at such a rate, that all they who see them, acknowledge that the Lord has blessed them, and has done Great Things for them. So it was said of Abraham, *The Lord has blessed my Master greatly, and he is become Great.* So we read, *The Lord Blessed the House of Obed-Edom.* So the Devil himself could not but acknowledge of Job, Chap. I. 10. *Thou hast Blessed the work of his Hands.* And when these Favours of GOD, are the sensible Rewards of Piety, of Devotion, of Self-denial, still more Conspicuous the Blessings in them.

However, Secondly. In the World to come, There, Then, all the People of GOD shall be most Conspicuously Favoured of Him. In that World, when, 2 Thes. I. 10. Our SAVIOUR shall come to be Glorified in his Saints, and admired in them that Believe. In that World, when the People of GOD shall be Kings and Priests unto Him, and receive a Crown of Life, and Walk in White before Him; In that World, when the Righteous will shine in the Kingdom

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*Blessed Kingdom of their Father. O Beloved, it doth not yet appear, what we shall be, but we know that when our SAVIOUR shall appear we shall be like Him. And then every one shall Know that we are Blessed of Him; every one shall hear Him say unto us, Come ye Blessed! Then, Then, most assuredly, all who see them shall acknowledge them to be the Blessed of the Lord.*

*11. The Gracious GOD, who will Bless His People, will also confer Conspicuous Blessings on the Children of His People, and of His Covenant.*

*And here, Let us be duely affected with the Blessings, which a GOD who is Good, and who does Good, has to confer upon us.*

*First, The Glorious GOD by taking the Children of His People into His Covenant bestows Conspicuous Blessings both on His People and on their Children. Our GOD has with a most Conspicuous procedure in it, said of His People, I will make an Everlasting Covenant with them. The Great GOD never*

makes a *Covenant* with His *People*, but He takes in their *Children* with them ; the *Children* which He looks on as *Parts* of them ; the *Children* which are comprehended in their *Acts* and *Deeds*, until they can *Transact* for Themselves. The *Covenant* made with our Father *Abraham*, ran in these Terms ; Gen. XVII. 7. *To be a GOD unto thee and unto thy Seed after thee.* When the *Covenant* was renew'd with the Church in the Wilderness, *GOD* then expressly took in their *Little Ones*. To render this the more *Conspicuous*, there was a *Seal* of the *Covenant* then appointed for their *Little Ones*. When the *Jewish Nation* by refusing the *KING*, who was the *Lord* whom they sought, and the *Messenger* of the *Covenant*, shut themselves out of the *Covenant*, the *Gentiles* were taken in. The *Kingdom* of *GOD* was then set up among the *Gentiles*, and they were brought in to sit down with the *Patriarchs*, in the *Enjoyments* of the *Covenant*, when the Nation which once were the only *Children* of the *Covenant*, are cast out, and must remain in

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in Outer Darkness, until the Times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. The Covenant remains the same for the Essence of it. Our SAVIOUR accordingly says of our Little Children, *Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.* If the Children of the Faithful were left out of the Covenant, in the *Evangelical Dispensation*, it would be too Essentially different from the *Patriarchal Dispensation*. What a grievous and cruel objection must the Jews have had against the Invitation, which the Apostle Peter gave them, to comply with the *Evangelical Dispensation* of the Covenant? if they might have said; *Alas, Our Children were once in the Covenant of GOD with us; But now they must no more be so.* Instead of this, our Apostle said concerning that Covenant of Grace, which had hitherto taken in the Children of the Faithful with their Parents; Acts II. 39. *The Promise is for you and for your Children, and for all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call; For the Gentiles that were afar off, as well as for the Jews; yea, for*

*America*, as well as for *Asia*. And it is for this cause, that now also, we apprehend a sufficient Warrant, for applying a *Seal* of the *Covenant* unto the *Infants* of them that *chuse the Things that please GOD*, and lay hold on his *Covenant*. The Word of *GOD* now says to Believers on our *SAVIOUR*; *I Cor. VII. 14. Your Children are Holy*: Which is as much as to say, *They are in the Covenant of GOD*. The Rite, which our *SAVIOUR* has appointed, for to signify an Admission into His *Covenant* therefore belongs unto them, and should be practised among them who would. *Keep the Statutes of the Lord*. Now, Let us make these Reflections.

First. The *Parents* among the People of *GOD*, count themselves *Conspicuously Blessed* in this; That in His *Covenant* He will please to Include and Accept their *Children* with them. When *Abraham* heard the Great *GOD* say unto him, *I will be a GOD unto thee, and unto thy Seed*, We read, *Gen. XVII. 17. Abraham fell on his Face*; As



As one astonished at the *Blessings* thus granted unto him ! Godly Parents when they see their *Children* brought into the *Covenant* of GOD, may well fall on their Face, and with an abased Soul, yea, with an amazed Soul, cry out ; *Lord, what am I ! And what is my House ! That thou shouldst be a GOD unto us ! That my Children, instead of being treated as a Generation of Vipers, may have thee for a GOD unto them !* Our GOD receiving our *Children* into His *Covenant*, assures Two Things unto us. First, He assures us, That if our *Children* Dye in their *Infancy*, yet they shall not be *Lost* ; but have a part in the *Blessings* of the *Future State*. Of them who have GOD for their GOD, we are informed ; Heb. XI. 16. *He hath prepared for them a City.* There will be found *Mansions* for these *Children* in the *Holy City*. Secondly, He assures us, That if our *Children* out-live their *Infancy*, they shall at least have the *Tenders* of the *Gospel*, and of its *Blessings*, made unto them. Unto them of Old, was it said ; Act. III. 25, 26. *You are the Children*

*Children of the Covenant, Unto you first GOD sends His Son Jesus Christ to bless you. These Children shall at least have an opportunity to embrace an offer'd JESUS, and be Blessed in Him. O Christian Parents, Don't you value these Blessings as more invaluable than the Gold of Ophir? I am sure, you do! GOD Conspicuously receiving your Children into His Covenant, All that see them will acknowledge that they are an Offspring which the Lord has Blessed.*

*Secondly, By Consequence, The Children thus taken under the Wings of the Covenant, are Conspicuously Blessed in being so. The Parents are Blessed, because of the Blessings which they see coming on their Children. How Blessed then are the Children! Oh! Blessed the Children over whom there is heard this Joyful Sound; I will be their GOD! It is to hear the Glorious GOD saying, I will surely do them Good! Where the Covenant comes, We read, Gal. III. 14. The Blessing of Abraham comes on the Gentiles thro' Jesus Christ. How Blessed are the*

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the Children, who expiring in their early Minority, are sure of an Inheritance among the *Spirits of Just Men Perfect*! How *Blessed* are the Children, who as they grow up, are sure to have a Redeemer, soliciting of them to be *Reconciled unto GOD*! How *Blessed* are the *Little Ones*, who have *their Angels*, and are at length taken up to a *Glory* wherein they shall be *equal to the Angels*! But above all; How *Blessed* are the Children, who by their own actual closing with the *Covenant*, make sure of all the *Blessings* in it! The *Covenant of GOD*, is full of *Blessings*. Oh! How *Blessed* are they whose *Transgression is forgiven*? How *Blessed* are they, who are *turn'd from their Iniquities*? How *Blessed* are they, who have a claim to all the *very Great and Precious Promises*! How *Blessed*, How *Blessed*, they who claim and gain all the *Spiritual Blessings of the Heavenly Places*! But so *Blessed* will the *Covenant of GOD* render the *True Children* of it. *Conspicuously Blessed Ones*! All that see them will acknowledge, that they are an *Offspring which the Lord has Blessed*.

Secondly,

Secondly, Among the People of GOD, there are some Children of His Covenant, who above others have *Conspicuous Blessings* to distinguish them. Some Children among the People of GOD, have *Distinguishing Blessings*. There are *Spectators* entertained with the *Blessings*; The Blessings upon them are such, that *all who see them, will acknowledge them to be the Children which the Lord has Blessed.*

More particularly, First, There are Children of a *Distinguish'd Piety*; and of these Children it may be said, That *Conspicuous Blessings* are poured out upon them. Of some Children we read, *Isai. XLIV. 3. I will pour my Spirit on thy Seed, and my Blessing on thine Offspring.* The Children who have the Spirit of GOD poured on them, are *Blessed* indeed; have a *pour* of Blessings on them. All Blessings are entail'd on Piety; It has the *Promise of the Life that now is, and of that which is to come.* And Piety is itself the chief of all Blessings; it has the most inestimable Blessings contained and comprized in it. Now there

there are *Children* that have a very *Conspicuous Piety* in them. We have been told of some *Children*, so *Conspicuous* for their *Piety*, that a *Man of GOD* could not but say upon it ; 2 Joh. 4. *I rejoyced greatly, that I found of thy Children walking in the Truth.* Some *Children* are of such *Conspicuous Piety* that *All who see them will Acknowledge*, They are *Children which will not Lie*, but are afraid of doing any wicked Thing ; are universally conscientious. *All will Acknowledge*, Tho' they are but *Children*, they are serious, they are discreet, they are the *Servants* of their *SAVIOUR*. *All will Acknowledge*, They are *Early Seekers of GOD*, and while they are yet *Children*, they know and prize, and mind the *Holy Scriptures*, and are made wise unto *Salvation*. These are *Children* that are *Blessings*. But how *Conspicuous* are their *Blessings* ! *Children* these are that shall be *Blessed* ; yea, *All that see them will Acknowledge*, that they are already such as the Lord has *Blessed*.

Secondly,



Secondly, There are *Children*, whose Parents are signally *Blessed* in them; *Distinguish'd* by being so; and of these *Children* it may be said, That they *Inherit Conspicuous Blessings*. When *Children* are Good, and when they do well; the *Hearts* of the *Parents* are made *Glad*: Unto wise *Children* it may be said, as in Prov. XXIII. 25. *Thy Father and thy Mother shall be glad; and see that bare thee shall rejoyce.* There are *Children* who are *Conspicuous Blessings* to their *Parents*. As the Roman Lady, when her *Visitants* propos'd the sight of her *Jewels*, put them off, till her well-instructed *Children* came home from School, and then produced them, saying, *These are my brightest Jewels*; There are *Parents*, who, if they bring in an *Invoice* of their *Blessings*, very near the *Top* of the *Account*, there will stand their well-disposed *Children*; and it must be said, *These are their Matchless Blessings*. All that see them, *Acknowledge*, They are *Parents* greatly *Blessed* in their *Children*. It may be, The *Children* are such as *Do worthily*  
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and are *Famous*. And the *Parents* are the *Joyful Beholders* of the *Figure* they make in their *Services* to their *Generation*. Their *Sons* come to *Honour*, and they *know* of it ! The *Blessings* of these *Children* are *Conspicuous*, are *Marvelous* ! And so are the *Blessings* of the *Children*, who are singularly *Dutiful* unto their *Parents*. There are *Children* of whom the *Parents* have said, *This same shall Comfort us !* and the *Children* have done it. Their *Obedience* unto their *Parents*, has been as exact as any *Reckabites* : Their *Gratitude* unto their *Parents*, has been like that of a *Joseph*. They have *Comforted* their *Parents*; yea, *Relieved* them, *Supported* them, and been the *Restorers* of their *Life*, and the *Nourishers* of their *Old Age*. *GOD* uses to multiply most *Conspicuous Blessings* upon such *Dutiful Children*. It is noted concerning the *Fifth Commandment* ; Eph. VI. 2. It is a *Commandment with a Promise* ; That it may be well with thee. *Conspicuous Blessings* usually follow the *Children* which are *Exemplary* for the keeping of that *Commandment*. Such



Things are usually done for them, that *All who see them, Acknowledge they are Children which the Lord has Blessed.*

## A P P L I C A T I O N.

I. The way to obtain and secure *Blessings*, yea, the most *Conspicuous Blessings*; is now laid out before you. Become the *People of GOD*, and you infallibly become a *Blessed People*. When *all that see you*, must *Acknowledge* that you are the *People of GOD*, you will be *Acknowledged* a *People Blessed of the Lord*. But in what way shall we become the *People of GOD*! The Answer shall be short; Let the Glorious *GOD* find you, what all *His People* are, in that Point; *Psal. CX. 3. A willing People.* Oh! may you under the Influences of *GOD*, become *willing* to have Him for your *GOD*, and *willing* to be the Lord's *Willingly*, Heartily, Cheerfully consent unto it: O Great *GOD*, Be thou my *GOD*, and Let me be bound up in the *Bundle of Life* among thy *People*! Hereupon, Become  
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willing to Be, all that GOD would have you to Be. Become willing to Do, all that GOD would have you to Do. Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts ; if I will not pour out Blessings upon you. But then, shall I step into Mount Ebal, and call from thence unto you ? If ye refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with Curses ; The Mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

II. But what shall be done by the People of GOD, that so their Children may be the *Blessed* of the Lord ; yea, arrive to such *Conspicuous Blessings*, that all who see them shall acknowledge, That they are the Children which the Lord has *Blessed* ! We have a *Strong Desire* to see our Children enriched and surrounded with *Blessings* ; We *Desire* nothing more Naturally, *Desire* nothing more Violently. But, my Friends, What will you do, that you may see your *Desire* accomplish'd, in what will be *Sweet* unto your Souls ?

Your Piety brings your Children into the Covenant of GOD ; And this will  
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bespeak *Blessings* for them. Oh ! moving Argument, O potent Perswasive, to *Piety* ! By the *Piety*, wherein you sincerely Embrace the Covenant of GOD, you procure *Blessings* for your *Children* as well as for your selves. While you remain destitute of *Piety*, you are *Strangers to the Covenant*. But, Oh ! Think what you expose your *Children* to ! O more hard-hearted than *Ostriches* : How can you so leave your *Children*, where they may be crush'd and brok'n, without prospect of any but *Unrevoked Mercies* ? How can you so harden your selves against your *Young Ones*, as tho' they were not yours ! Were not you *deprived of Wisdom*, you would have your Hearts pierced with the Cry of the *Young Ones* ; O pity us, O pity us ! Oh ! Our Parents, Let your *Piety* do its part that we may not be lost. Become you the Lord's, that we also may be the Lord's. Methinks, you are too like the barbarous Idolaters, who made themselves deaf unto the Cry of their *Children*, when broiling in the *Fires* of the Valley of *Hinnom* !

But

But having by *Piety* brought your *Children* into the *Covenant* of *GOD*, Let your *Piety* go on, and give them an *Education* agreeable to the *Dedication* which you pass upon them. *Instruct* them ; *Advise* them ; *Restrain* them ; Set a *Pattern* of all *Piety* before them. And, Oh ! be concern'd with importunate, with perpetual *Supplications* for them. As *David* pray'd ; 1 *Chron. XXIX. 19. Give unto Solomon my Son, a perfect Heart, to keep thy Commandments.* Thus, Pray with *Agony*, even with a *Travailing Agony*, O Give to my *Child* a *Pious Heart*, and an inclination to keep thy *Commandments.* Beg it, Urge it, Press it ; Like them who of *Old* addressed our *SAVIOUR*, on the *Body*. *Miseries* of their *Children* ; Lord, *Heal all that is amiss in the Soul of my Child !* And, Lord, Let no evil Spirit possess the *Soul of my Child !* Hold on *Praying and Weeping*, Oh ! That my *Child* may live in thy sight ! Hold on, until thou perceive the *Lord* saying to thee ; Concerning this *Child*, I have heard thee !

III. But Let the *Children* among the People of GOD, now hearken to the *Warnings* of GOD, that they do not sin away His Blessings, and that they do not bring down *Conspicuous* Curses, and such a Vengeance from Heaven upon themselves, as *that all who see them, shall acknowledge, That they are the Children who are abhorred of the Lord.*

O Children of the Covenant, Be it known unto you; If you sin against the Covenant of GOD, you sin away the *Blessings* of it; and GOD will make your *Plagues* wonderful. What will the Covenant of GOD avail, for them who tread under foot the Son of GOD, and under all the Obligations of the Covenant, become and remain *Unholy Things*? Children, Don't think to say within your selves, *We have Abraham for our Father, and, We are in the Covenant of our SAVIOUR!* For if after you have been as *Trees water'd with Baptism*, you don't at the Age proper for it, bring forth the *Fruits of Piety*, GOD will cut you down, and cast you into the *Fire* of His Indignation.—

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O Harken to this : You must at the Years capable of it, your selves come into the *Covenant* of GOD. The Choice and Voice of your Souls must be that ; *Exod. XV. 2. The Lord is my God, and I will prepare Him an Habitation : my Fathers God, and I will exalt Him.* Having so entred into the *Covenant* of GOD, you must then walk in the ways of the *Covenant*. Yea, you must be lovely *Spectacles* of *Piety*. All that see you must have Reason to *Acknowledge*, That you are *Children* that *abhor what is Evil*, and *cleave to that which is Good* ; *Children* that are the *Followers of the Good One* ; *Children* that are *Prayerful* towards GOD, *Watchful* over your selves, *Fruitful* in *Good Works*. Then, you shall be, and you shall have, *Conspicuous Blessings* from Above.

But you read of some who are called *Cursed Children*. Oh ! Be effectually warned of GOD, That you shun the Things that will make you such, and, *Flee Youthful Lusts*. *Baptized Children* ; Are any of you *Vicious Children* ? What ! *Prayerless Wretches* ! Abandon'd unto  
Gaming,

*Gaming, Drunkenness, Uncleaness? Accustomed unto the horrid Language of Swearing, and Cursing, and Ridiculing all that should be Reverenc'd! Ah! woful Children, your Baptism will but be an aggravation of your Condemnation. 'Twill Double your Miseries, when a Righteous GOD shall Baptize you over again, and shall dip you, and drench you, in that Lake from whence the Smoke of the Torment ascends for-ever and ever.*

And the more *Conspicuous* any of your *Predecessors* and *Progenitors* have been for their *Piety*, the more *Infamous* will your *Vices* render you; the more *Conspicuous* will be the *Revenues* of GOD upon you. As it was of old employ'd as a *Conviction* upon an *Ungodly Son*; Jer. XXII. 17,—*Did not thy Father do Judgment and Justice, and then it was well with him? But thine Eyes and thine Heart are not upon any thing but thy Covetousness.* Thus may it be said unto many an *Ungodly Son*, Was not thy Father a constant *Seeker of GOD*? Was not thy Father, a *Sober,*

as



as well as a Devout Man? Was not thy Father a Man who Kept his Tongue from Evil? And all that saw him, Acknowledged, he was one in Favour with GOD and Man. But thou art the Reverse of all this. How dreadful, how dreadful, will be the Punishment that such Apostates will have assign'd unto them? Children, Be prevailed withal, To Think upon your ways, and to Turn your Feet unto the Testimonies of GOD; yea, To make Haste and not delay to keep His Commandments.

But, O Remember this One Thing. You will never come to Good, nor can any *Conspicuous Blessings* ever come at you, till you shake off all *Vicious Company*. You may pretend this and that; If you can take Delight in *Vicious Company*, and affect a Familiarity with *Vile Persons*, you have not the least Beginning of *Piety* in you. Their *unreproved Crimes* you will make your own. It won't be long before you Learn their Ways. They will hold you fast in the Gall of *Bitterness*, and the Bond of *Iniquity*. You will one day bitterly

bitterly Curse the Day that that ever you were acquainted with them.

Dear Children ; If you would ever have *all that see you, to acknowledge that you are the Children whom the Lord has Blessed!* Harken to me, in this *One thing ; this One thing ; Forsake the Foolish, and Live!*

To the Children that have been *Baptized* among us, and are now capable of considering the Obligations in their *Baptism* laid upon them, there are Three very Solemn QUESTIONS, to be tendered ; Unto which, O CONSCIENCE, do thou extort a deliberate Answer from them.

QUEST. I. In your *Baptism*, has there not been done *That* for you, upon which the People of GOD, and a *Cloud of Witnesses*, who have *Seen* you, have *Acknowledged*, That you have been *Devoted* unto the *Service* of your SAVIOUR ; And bound to live as it becomes the *Children of GOD the Father*, the *Subjects of GOD the Son*, and the *Temples of GOD the Holy Spirit* all your Days ?

Days? Yea, And was it not a *Conspicuous Blessing* for you to be brought under such a *Dedication* to GOD?

QUEST. II. If it be plain, that after your *Baptism*, you follow Wicked Courses, and *walk in the vanity of your Mind*, will not all the Good People that see you, *Acknowledge*, That even in that very Thing, you are dreadfully *Cursed* of GOD? And if you prove *Briars* and *Thorns* in this *Field* of GOD, which has the *Rain* often coming upon it, are you not *nigh unto Cursing*, and will not your End be, that you shall be *Burned*? Yea, Has not the Vengeance of GOD upon our *Backsliding Children* in a Multitude, Oh! What a Multitude! of Instances, been so *Conspicuous*, that you have cause to *fear and quake exceedingly*, even at what you your selves have seen of the Things done unto them?

QUEST. III. What if you should make that effectual Cry, O my GOD, *Pour out thy Good Spirit upon me!* — Cry thus unto Him, who gives the *Holy Spirit*

*Spirit unto them that ask Him ; until you are filled with the Holy Spirit, and then clothed with the Holy Spirit ; and every one shall see, that you have an Holy, Serious, Devout, and Honest Spirit acting of you ! Would not all that see you, then Acknowledge, that you are Children Blessed of GOD ? Yea, Is not this the most Significant and Compendious way of coming at the Blessings your Heavenly Father has Ready for you ? O our Children, Hear now my Reasoning. Harken to these Considerations !*

*I Conclude with recommending it unto the People of GOD, that they would seek after the Fulfilment of that Word ; Psal. CXV. 13, 14, 15. He will Bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. The Lord shall increase you more and more, you, and your Children. You are the Blessed of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth.*

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